10 Southwell Gardens S W
5 June

My dear Gray – I owe that I thought Bruges plants – which are very good – rather dear so as there was a mistake I will ask you to let him have the $ 15 on account for his next Yours collection – I am not sure whether I thanked you for the nice specimens from Gray's Peak of which I had what they did not keep at Kew –

At last I have nearly got my little S. American book off my hands – It is to come out in the Autumn – I have used my little tour as a peg on which to hang various questionings & speculations in physics & not – history –

them on our return – we were not fortunate enough to find them at home – Nobody is at home at this season in London.

With our kindest greetings to Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

John Ball

and hope to send it for your critical judgement next November. Your friend O. W. Holmes has been made a lion of & regularly hunted — I believe that I told you that I caused invitations for the Atheneum & Cosmopolitan Clubs to reach him on his arrival & wrote him a civil note — to which no answer came. When I did meet him he disclaimed the slightest recollection of our meeting (with you) — We should have been happy to show any attention to him & Mrs Sargent but I have a fixed aversion to lion hunting and am not likely to see him again

I dont blame him in the least for not answering my note

What can a poor overhunted animal do but snatch such few moments of rest as are left to him?

I may be able to despatch the bundles of dolphins before we start for our annual wandering at the beginning of July but I am not sure as I have yet much to do. We have taken a small house at Kew to procure change of air for my wife & have been living to & fro — which causes some waste of time — Did I tell you that Mr & Mrs C. Loring went off to Italy almost immediately — I hope to see